

Message Text

SECRET

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52

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 RSR-01 OMB-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 /120 W
----- 033230

R 271627 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1277

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

S E C R E T TUNIS 1587

DEPARTMENT PASS CAIRO

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, XF

SUBJECT: LE MONDE PIECE DEPICTING USG AS BEING

CONTENT WITH CURRENT SITUATION IN

MIDDLE EAST

1. DEPARTMENT'S ATTENTION IS DRAWN TO FRONT- PAGE
ARTICLE WHICH APPEARED IN LE MONDE MARCH 21
CONCLUDING THAT USG IS BASICALLY SATISFIED WITH PRESENT
SITUATION IN MIDDLE EAST AND CONTEMPLATES NO PEACE
INITIATIVE AT PRESENT TIME. ARTICLE IS WRITTEN BY
ERIC ROULEAU AND DRAWS HEAVILY ON ALLEGED QUOTES FROM
TOP USG OFFICIALS (NAMES UNSPECIFIED) WHO SUPPOSEDLY
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ECHO FOREGOING THESIS.

2. SINCE LE MONDE IS READ AS " THE BIBLE" BY EDUCATED TUNISIANS, ESPECIALLY BY FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS, AND SINCE ROULEAU IS GENERALLY CONSIDERED TO BE A RELIABLE REPORTER, ARTICLE IS HAVING UNFAVORABLE IMPACT HERE. TUNISIAN BELIEVE THAT USG NOT RPT NOT SATISFIED WITH CURRENT SITUATION IN MIDDLE EAST-- A BELIEF WHICH EMBASSY ENCOURAGED-- AND TUNISIAN HOPES THAT USG WOULD TAKE LEAD IN PROMOTING SETTLEMENT HAVE BEEN SOMEWHAT SHAKEN. ROULEAU ARTICLE ONLY MAKES MORE DIFFICULT OUR TASK OF PERSUADING MODERATE ARABS, INCLUDING PALESTINIANS, THAT THERE IS REALISTIC VERED IN INDUSTRIAL COUNCIL AGREEMENTS NEGOTIATED BETWEEN EMPLOYER ORGANIZATIONS AND WHITE OR COLOURED TRADE UNIONS. THESE CAN BE, AND USUALLY ARE, EXTENDED TO COVER AFRICAN WORKERS. (AFRICAN UNIONS ARE NOT PROHIBITED BUT MAY NOT PARTICIPATE IN COLLECTIVE BARGAINING). WHERE AFRICAN WAGES, IN COMMON WITH THOSE OF OTHER UNORGANISED WORKERS, ARE LAID DOWN BY " WAGE DETERMINATIONS", THESE WAGES ARE MINIMA, AND IN PRACTICE HIGHER RATES CAN BE AND OFTEN ARE PAID. HOWEVER, THE AVERAGE WAGES PAID TO MANY AFRICANS IN INDUSTRY ARE BELOW WHAT MAY BE CONSIDERED AS THE POVERTY DATUM LINE AND
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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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Subject: LE MONDE PIECE DEPICTING USG AS BEING CONTENT WITH CURRENT SITUATION IN MIDDLE EAST
TAGS: PFOR, US, XF
To: ABU DHABI
AF
ALGIERS
AMMAN
BEIRUT
JIDDA
KHARTOUM

KUWAIT
SECSTATE WASHDC

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